

21. *MICROHIERAX CÆRULESCENS* (Linn.); Oates, op. cit. ii. p. 211.
  22. *PHALACROCORAX PYGMÆUS* (Pall.); Oates, op. cit. ii. p. 234.
  23. *ARDEA INSIGNIS*, Hodgs.; Oates, op. cit. ii. p. 245.
  24. *ARDEA CINEREA*, Linn.; Oates, op. cit. ii. p. 243.
  25. *XENORHYNCHUS ASIATICUS* (Lath.); Oates, op. cit. ii. p. 264.
  26. *DISSURA EPISCOPUS* (Bodd.); Oates, op. cit. ii. p. 265.
  27. *TADORNA CASARCA* (Linn.); Oates, op. cit. ii. p. 277.
  28. *DAFILA ACUTA* (Linn.); Oates, op. cit. ii. p. 279.
  29. *CHETTUSIA CINEREA* (Bl.); Oates, op. cit. ii. p. 372.
  30. *GALLINAGO STENURA* (Kuhl); Oates, op. cit. ii. p. 383.
  31. *LARUS ICHTHYAËTUS* (Pall.); Oates, op. cit. ii. p. 414.
  32. *STERNA SEENA*, Sykes; Oates, op. cit. ii. p. 423.
  33. *STERNA MELANOGASTER*, Temm.; Oates, op. cit. ii. p. 424.
  34. *RHYNCHOPS ALBICOLLIS*, Swains.; Oates, op. cit. ii. p. 436.
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V.—*Notes on the Birds of Teneriffe.*

By Capt. SAVILE G. REID, R.E.

[Concluded from vol. v. page 435.]

No account of the birds of Teneriffe would be complete without mention of the Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla melanope*), a common and familiar resident, universally beloved and unmolested. I found several nests in the stone walls of the unfrequented lanes on the outskirts of Orotava and in the steep fern-covered sides of the rocky ravines, or “barrancos,” in the vicinity. These birds may be seen at all hours of the day chasing flies on the roofs of the houses in the town, and are, no doubt, of great service to the com-

munity at large in keeping down the many insect pests frequenting the lower levels of the island.

Dr. Crotch informed me that he had certainly met with the Yellow Bunting (*Emberiza citrinella*); but I did not observe it myself, nor did I see, or hear of, the Short-toed Lark, or the Siskin, though both are said to inhabit Teneriffe.

I was equally unfortunate as regards the Kingfisher (*Alcedo ispida*), which Mr. Godman met with; and the Pied Flycatcher (*Muscicapa atricapilla*), included by Webb and Berthelot in the Teneriffian list.

The Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) is a common bird, and soon attracts the attention of even the most unornithological visitor. I found it fairly numerous in the island at the beginning of February, and there seems no doubt that some few pass the winter there, many others appearing in spring. These handsome birds are fond of sitting on the walls or trees in the vicinity of the "carretera," or main road, and are easily approached, either on foot or horseback. I have seen five or six on the same heap of stones in a vineyard close to the thoroughfare. They were just beginning to breed when I left the island, early in April; the only nest I came across was in the middle of a big stone wall, overgrown by the branches of an ancient fig-tree, quite unassailable. The local name in Teneriffe, "Tabobo," exactly expresses the curious note of the Hoopoe, a very familiar sound to me as I sat sketching in the barrancos near the hotel at Orotava. Viera gives as its common name "Abobito." He says it is not difficult to rear the young, by feeding them on raw meat, and the old birds also get reconciled to captivity and catch flies &c.

There is, I believe, only one species of Woodpecker found in the island, the Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus major*), and this, as might be expected, is confined to the pine-belt high up on the mountain-side. I obtained a pair in the pine-woods above La Guancha, on the 15th Feb. Its local name in this place is "Peto"; in other districts the bird is called "Carpintero," or "the carpenter."

No species of Bee-eater regularly visits Teneriffe, I believe ; but Viera, in his Dictionary, mentions the arrival of considerable flocks in Gran Canaria in 1788 and 1800. His description is that of the common *Merops apiaster*.

The migratory species of Shrike which arrives in Teneriffe about the end of March is undoubtedly *Lanius algeriensis*. I was unable to procure specimens during my stay, but young Baeza (son of my poor friend the captain), acting under my orders, went on an expedition, after my departure, to the Punta de Teno, the north-western extremity of the island, and procured several skins there. These I have compared with examples of the other Grey Shrikes in my collection, and have come to the conclusion that they are *L. algeriensis*. This identification endorses the opinion of Sharpe and Dresser ('Birds of Europe,' vol. iii. p. 389), who predicted that this form would prove to be the one occurring in the Canary Islands. It appears to be numerous in the vicinity of the Punta de Teno, where it breeds, but, so far as I could ascertain, it is comparatively rare on the eastern side of the island.

There are but two game birds to be found in any numbers in Teneriffe, the Barbary Partridge (*Caccabis petrosa*) and the Quail. Woodcocks are resident in the ravines high up on the mountain, but are too rare to afford sport to the native "cazadores," and Snipe are never met with in any numbers in the winter, owing to the want of suitable places for them.

The Partridge is tolerably numerous in the upper and rougher portions of the island ; but, from what I could hear, no big bags are made, owing to the difficult nature of the ground and the well-known running powers of the bird. I saw a good many during my ornithological rambles, and shot two or three, for identification, in magnificent plumage. They are most plentiful on the southern slopes, near Vilaflor, whence I have some eggs, presented to me by my friend Don Ramon Gomez, taken about the 1st April. Baeza repeatedly assured me that he had been Partridge-shooting on the north side of Gran Canaria, the island nearest to Teneriffe on the

east side, and that the species found there was the Red-legged Partridge (*C. rufa*). I made many inquiries about this, and, on the whole, am inclined to believe his statement, which I hope to see verified at no very distant date.

It is quite possible that *C. rufa* has been introduced into Gran Canaria; but it will be somewhat curious if it is the only species occurring there, and *C. petrosa* the only one in Teneriffe.

Viera says of the "Perdiz," that it is common to both Canaria and Teneriffe, and has been introduced without success into Palma. In his description of the bird he says it has the neck and gorge bordered with dark spots (*manchitas oscuras*). Whether this applies to *C. rufa* or to *C. petrosa* seems uncertain, but I should say the former, for *C. petrosa* has white spots on a chocolate or rich red ground.

Quails are resident in numbers in Teneriffe, and very good sport is to be had, especially near Tacoronte and Laguna, in the months of August and September. A moderate shot is dissatisfied with less than 20 couple, I am informed, and many thousands must be killed every year. Still they do not appear to diminish in numbers, and during the months of February and March I was constantly putting them up in the maize- and wheat-fields, whilst their curious triple note was to be heard on all sides.

I, of course, saw nothing of the Bustard of the eastern islands—the Houbara (*Otis undulata*). It is not found except in Fuerteventura, where it is apparently common, and in Lanzarote, where it is scarce or accidental. I saw a pair of eggs in the museum at Tacoronte, which were small editions of those of *O. tarda*. There seems to be no doubt about the species, but I should much like to have obtained a specimen.

Under the name "polla de agua," Viera, in his Dictionary (1799), describes the Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*), and states that it has occurred occasionally in Gran Canaria; but I do not think it has been obtained in Teneriffe. He also mentions the Common Coot (*Fulica atra*) as occurring and breeding in Gran Canaria. It is certainly found in Teneriffe,



for I saw a live bird in Tacoronte in February, which had been captured in the vicinity, and was looking healthy and comfortable in a big cage. The hospitable owner informed me that a few came every year to the island.

I cannot include the "Gauga," or Sand Grouse of Fuerteventura (*Pterocles arenarius*), in my list; but I may mention that Viera, who calls it *Lagopus pyrenaica*, Linn., gives, in his Dictionary, a description of a *Pterocles* as follows:—

"A bird of the family of the Gallinules, and of the size of a Partridge, whose beak is nearly straight, with the nostrils at the base of the upper mandible united to the feathers of the forehead. Its wings are long. From the tail start two feathers half as long again as the others, getting gradually thinner till they terminate in a point. The head, neck, and shoulders show several points and spots, which are black, greenish and red, while the lower portion of the body is black. The feet are ashy, covered with a feathery down, claws black. On the throat are three black lines, like a necklace. It breeds in the island of Fuerteventura."

This description would seem to apply to *Pterocles alchata*, except that the abdomen is given as *black*, as in *P. arenarius*. Perhaps both species have occurred, and the description has thus got somewhat mixed. (See Dresser's 'Birds of Europe,' vol. vii. pp. 63 & 70.)

Viera carefully describes the Courser (*Cursorius gallicus*) of the eastern islands under the expressive name of "Engañamuchachos" (Anglicè "Cheat-the-boys"), from its habit of squatting and permitting a near approach, and then running off like a greyhound, to the great disappointment of its would-be captor. I need not say that this sand-loving bird is not found in the rocky island of Teneriffe.

The Stone Curlew (*Ædinemus scolopax*) occurs sparingly in the few suitable spots in Teneriffe, and breeds near Orotava. I have eggs taken there in a comparatively level piece of corn-field near the Botanical Gardens. I saw one or two there, and also heard the note of the bird near Buena Vista.

Viera describes the Golden Plover as occurring in flocks in the rainy season, but I failed to obtain any information

about it in Teneriffe. The Lapwing undoubtedly visits the island, and Don R. Gomez has two examples in his museum, obtained near Orotava. He also had a specimen of the Ringed Plover (*Ægialitis hiaticula*), which he kindly gave to me, and informed me that the bird is not uncommonly met with along the shore. Viera appears to allude to it under the name of "chorlito de collar."

I did not come across the Turnstone, Woodcock, or Snipe during my stay.

I saw a single Common Sandpiper (*Tringoides hypoleucus*) on the shore near Orotava on the 5th February, and this was the only representative of the Scolopacidæ I met with. Many other species occur, however; for Don R. Gomez has local specimens of the Curlew and the Redshank in his collection, and Juan Baeza has recently sent me a Curlew, a Ruff (*Macchetes pugnar*), and a Curlew Sandpiper (*Tringa subarquata*), obtained by himself near Orotava.

I was rather surprised at the absence of all species of Cormorant from the very suitable coasts of Teneriffe near Orotava, and equally surprised to find the Common Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) in pairs on the rocks there. I imagine it must breed in the cliffs, as it does in other parts of the world, but I was unable to ascertain this for a fact. Viera's Dictionary contains a description of this bird as follows:—"Garza (*Ardea*). A well-known bird, which is seen on the sea-shore and by the pools in our islands, a visitor from the neighbouring coasts of Africa; they always appear in pairs." He then gives an account of two other Herons, which he calls "Garza cangrejera" (*Cancrophagus*) and "Garzeta" (*Ardea alba minor*). A specimen of the former, taken at the lake (now drained) at Laguna, in Teneriffe, appears, from his description, to have been a Squacco (*A. ralloides*), while the latter, which he describes from an example obtained in Gran Canaria, and speaks of as not uncommon, is probably *A. bubulcus*, the Buff-backed Heron. I did not meet with either, but Gomez has a local specimen of *A. ralloides* in his museum.

The Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) has occurred in Tene-

riffe, one having been obtained by Gomez near Orotava. Unfortunately the bill is the only portion he has preserved, but he described the bird to me, and there is no doubt that it may be safely added to the Teneriffian list.

The Anatidæ are out of place in an island like Teneriffe, now that the ancient lake at Laguna is a thing of the past. It must have been a grand place for all sorts of wild-fowl in the old days, but now, alas! there is nothing left but a small square tank, full of frogs and weeds, to mark the site of the former extensive sheet of water. I paid a visit to this miserable relic of the good old times, and left the spot a sadder, if not a wiser, ornithologist.

Viera talks of Ducks, which he calls "*Patos berberiscos*," and which appear to have been the Common Wild Duck (*Anas boschas*).

I have often wondered what species were included amongst the Wild-fowl the Governor's Peregrines were bullying on the lake at the time he was amusing himself in watching the "chasse" from the citadel of Laguna (see 'The Ibis,' 1887, p. 430). A real good marshy lake in the Canary Islands would be something to dream of.

The country people spoke to me of Ducks as appearing occasionally in winter, generally flying overhead, but they could give me no information as to the species. A Duck is a Duck, and nothing more, in this rocky island.

The Common Tern (*Sterna fluviatilis*) is of frequent occurrence in the summer months in Teneriffe. I have received both skins and eggs from Gomez, though I never saw it myself, nor did I come across any other Terns during my stay. Doubtless several species are found in the eastern islands and detached rocks adjoining them, where there are many suitable breeding-places for all sorts of sea-birds.

Gulls were numerous at Santa Cruz when we landed there, on the 4th February, but apparently of only two species, the Lesser Black-backed (*Larus fuscus*) and a Herring Gull, which I then recorded as *L. argentatus*, but which, from subsequent observations, made at the same place on my return, I believe to have been *L. cachinnans*, the Yellow-legged Her-

ring Gull. There was a large gathering of these Gulls off the Mole on the 8th April, when we were waiting for the steamer to arrive and take us home, and I watched them carefully through my telescope for some time. Their legs were undoubtedly yellow, and I cannot but think they were *L. cachinnans*. Probably both species occur.

The Kittiwake was frequently to be seen off the shore at Orotava, and Gomez has a specimen in his collection. Mr. Godman thinks this Gull may breed on the rocky coasts of Teneriffe; and I should say this was more than probable, though I found the information to be obtained from the natives as to the various species of Gulls, Terns, and Shearwaters was, to say the least of it, misleading.

Of the Shearwaters and Petrels I obtained examples of four different species, *Puffinus kuhli*, *P. anglorum*, *P. obscurus*, and *Oceanites marinus*, Lath.; but I did not meet with Bulwer's Petrel (*Bulweria columbina*), which does not, I fancy, range so far to the westward as Teneriffe, though, owing to its nocturnal habits, it might easily escape observation.

Early in March a friend, much addicted to deep-sea fishing off the port of Orotava, informed me that there were constantly hundreds of sea-birds of some sort round his boat all day long, evidently engaged, like himself, in fishing. My curiosity was roused, and on the 19th of that month, when the sea looked tolerably smooth, I embarked with a small party of friends, and young Baeza, in a substantial fishing-boat in search of specimens. The treacherous ocean belied its peaceful appearance, however, and we all felt remarkably uncomfortable in a very short time; but we stuck to our ship manfully, and long enough for me to get what I wanted. It really was worth all the discomfort, so far as I myself was concerned, to see such a sight:—hundreds of *Puffinus kuhli* and *P. anglorum* on the wing and in mixed flocks on the surface of the water, so busily engaged in their onslaught on the shoals of fish that they hardly took any notice of us. We shot three or four of each species, and then turned our boat's head for the shore, where we landed and unanimously decided to remain until our evil destiny compelled us to



return once more to England! My experience of the Procellariidæ is small, and I never imagined they were to be found in such numbers and to be so easily obtained. I do not think there were more than the two species I have mentioned. We inspected them as carefully as the violent tossings of the boat would allow, through my binoculars, and both Major Loyd (a good observer) and myself came to this conclusion.

Juan Baeza has recently sent me the egg of a large Shearwater, but with no information as to where it was obtained. I presume it comes from Teneriffe itself, and is the egg of *P. kuhli*. It measures 2·83 by 1·97 inches, being somewhat larger than eggs of this bird in my collection from the island of Filfla, near Malta.

Gomez has a specimen of the Dusky Shearwater (*Puffinus obscurus*) in his museum, and he kindly gave me one in the flesh, picked up on the shore at Orotava on the 15th March. It undoubtedly breeds in the western detached islets. I cannot understand why this bird is omitted by Mr. Dresser from the European list. It has been obtained within British limits, and surely the numbers occurring *and breeding* in the Atlantic islands—Madeira, the Desertas, Porto Santo, the Canaries, &c.—would entitle it to be regarded as something more than a straggler from the American coasts.

A boy brought me a live example of an interesting little Petrel, *Oceanites marinus*, Lath., on the 20th March. It had been knocked over with a fishing-rod the previous evening. I was quite puzzled by its appearance, and could not determine its species; but my friend Capt. G. E. Shelley, who most kindly looked over my birds for me, identified it on my return home. He informed me that it has been obtained once or twice in the Canarian archipelago, and is an African species, though (somewhat unaccountably) not recorded from the west coast of that continent, where, however, it doubtless occurs.

While on the subject of these Shearwaters, I cannot help mentioning a very interesting fact with respect to the parasites infesting the specimens I obtained. A keen microscopist, Mr. R. E. Crickitt, was staying at our hotel in

Orotava, and, at his request, I carefully collected examples of the parasites from my four species, which he subsequently mounted on slides for his microscope. An examination of these formidable-looking (under the magnifying-power) creatures gave the following startling results :—The parasites from *P. kuhli* and *P. anglorum* are alike, or at any rate very similar, while those from *P. obscurus* and *O. marinus* also resemble each other. The latter have no eyes, and belong to a set peculiar to night-flying birds ; the former have eyes and are usually met with in birds seen abroad by daylight ! Is this accidental, or is it part of a regular system of nature ?

I did not meet with the Razorbill (*Alca torda*) myself, but Don Ramon Gomez has specimens in his collection from the neighbourhood of Orotava. This is the only member of the Alcidae I recorded as Teneriffian. Viera mentions several sea-birds in his Dictionary ; but his descriptions are somewhat puzzling, and I cannot make out clearly what they refer to.

Though very common, I never succeeded in obtaining a specimen of the Raven. On several occasions young Bacza, when out with me, had an easy chance of securing one ; but one time he did not fire, and another he missed, and so I came away without one. I was sorry for this, as the bird seemed to me smaller than the ordinary European *Corvus corax*, and may prove to be of a different species, perhaps *C. tingitanus*, the Tangier Raven of Col. Irby. A pair of eggs marked “Cuervo,” in the Tacoronte Museum, looked no larger than those of *C. corone* or *C. cornix*.

Another bird I was anxious to obtain, the migratory Turtle Dove, which visits the island every summer, I did not remain late enough to procure. There seems to be a doubt as to which species it is, but I hope to receive specimens shortly and to clear this up.

I have now, I think, gone through my list of species recorded in Teneriffe—68 during my residence there, and 3 more subsequently, making 71 in all : not a very large total, certainly, but not bad, considering the limited area I worked.

In conclusion I will give the local names for the most common species, which may prove useful to the ornithological visitor to Teneriffe. I think these names may be pretty safely relied upon, though it is almost impossible to make out exactly to which bird some of these names belong.

Egyptian Vulture, "Guirré"; Kestrel, "Cernicalo"; Buzzard, "Aguililla"; Kite, "Milano"; Sparrow Hawk, "Gavilan"; Long-eared Owl, "Coruja"; Barn Owl, "Lechuza"; Great Spotted Woodpecker, "Peto," "Carpintero"; Hoopoe, "Tabobo"; Swifts, "Andoriña"; Swallow, "Golondrina"; Blackbird, "Mirlo"; Ultramarine Titmouse, "Frailero"; Chiffchaff, "Hornero"; Blackcap, "Capirote"; Spectacled Warbler, "Ratonero"; Grey Wagtail, "Pispa," "Alpisa"; Canarian Pipit, "Caminero"; Common Bunting, "Pájaro pollo," "Triguero"; Rock Sparrow, "Chillon," "Gorrion"; Teydean Chaffinch, "Pájaro azul," "Pájaro de Teide," "Pájaro de la Cumbre"; Azorean Chaffinch, "Pempillon," "Tintillon"; Linnet, "Millero," "Triguero" (?); Goldfinch, "Jilguero," "Pintacilgo," "Pintado"; Canary, "Canario"; Raven, "Cuervo"; Rock Dove, "Paloma salvaje"; Barbary Partridge, "Perdiz"; Quail, "Codorniz"; Stone Curlew, "Alcaraván"; Sandpiper, Dunlin, &c., "Patito"; Heron, "Garza"; Terns, "Jarajao"; Gulls, "Gaviota"; Shearwaters, "Pardela."

This list includes nearly all the species likely to be met with in Teneriffe. I have local names for others, but they are either doubtful or simply Spanish translations of the English names.

## — VI. — On the Genus *Cyclorhis*, Swains.

By HANS VON BERLEPSCH.

IN a recent number of 'The Ibis' Mr. Selater has published an important account of the genus *Cyclorhis*, which has interested me very much, as I have always given special attention to this somewhat difficult genus of *Vireonidæ*.

Seeing that there are several points in which I do not quite agree with my friend Mr. Selater, I wish to direct once more